

00788

Susan Caplan

Civ. Pers.

DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548**

FILE: B-185706

DATE: DEC 17 1976

MATTER OF:

Roger E. Kyle — Real estate expenses

DIGEST:

As provided by Federal Travel Regulations (FPMR 101-7) para. 2-6.2d (May 1973), transferred employee may be reimbursed for \$110 of loan fee of \$148.28 since it represents cost of permanent mortgage title insurance; however, he may not be reimbursed \$38.28 since that sum represents cost of owner's title insurance.

This action is in response to a request dated December 30, 1975, from Ms. Orris C. Huet, Authorized Certifying Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for a decision as to whether she may certify for payment a reclaim travel voucher submitted by Mr. Roger E. Kyle for reimbursement of a fee paid February 21, 1975, in connection with the purchase of a new residence incident to his transfer of official duty station.

The amount of \$148.28 in question is listed as "cash amount to retire loan." This amount was disallowed by the agency since it appeared to be a deposit to escrow "for payment of future insurance, taxes etc." The reclaim voucher was submitted with a letter from the escrow officer in charge explaining that the amount in question was not "for future payment, or past payment, of taxes, insurance or anything but to retire the loan."

We have contacted the escrow agent in charge and have been advised that the amount in question was paid to cover a fee of \$38.28 for an owner's title insurance policy and a fee of \$110 for a permanent mortgage title insurance policy. The sum of \$110 for the permanent mortgage title insurance is reimbursable, while the fee for the owner's title policy is not. Federal Travel Regulations (FPMR 101-7), para. 2-6.2d (1973).

Accordingly, the travel voucher is returned for payment in accordance with this decision.

MILLER SUGGARD

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

dyb